







Serial No.:

Takashi Ihara

10/511,912

Conf. No.:

4218

Filed:

10/20/2004

For:

ANTENNA STRUCTURE AND RADIO

CONTROLLED TIMEPIECE

Art Unit:

2821

Examiner:

Ho, Tan

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as FIRST-CLASS mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

Registration No. 29,367 Attorney for Applicant(s)

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(c), after the C.F.R. §1.97(b) time period, but before the mail date of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (whichever occurs first), with either:

- (a) a statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e); or
- (b) the \$180.00 fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

- () Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e):
  - The enclosed references were cited in a Communication issued by . Applicant(s) hereby certify that each item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
  - Applicant(s) hereby certify that no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing below after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information cited on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.
- (X) Enclosed is a check for \$180.00 to cover the fee as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- A copy of each Japanese Office Action (3) is enclosed. (X)

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

300 South Wacker Drive - Suite 2500

Chicago, Illinois 60606 Telephone: (312) 360-0080 Facsimile: (312) 360-9315

Customer Number 24978

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Patrick G. Burns, Reg. No. 29,367

Form PTO (Rev. 8-88		449 U.S. Department of Patent and Tradema	Commerce O	PE	Attorney Docket No.: 1912.71714		Serial No.: 10/511,912		
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(Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary)  U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					Filing Date: 10/20/2004	Group: 2821			
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